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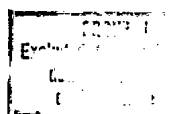
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17 September 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Richard Helms

FROM: Luis deFlorez

1. Recently a member of the President's Committee on Research visited TSD to discuss research in the field of Audio Surveillance. A complete exhibit was put together to show the state-of-the-art and the advanced experimental devices now under development. It appears that he evinced no interest in any of the devices exhibited or the progress made as a result of research and dismissed the current effort with the remark, "If you have it, it's out of date." This doubtless is an excellent slogan but by itself will not produce anything useful. Neither is it conducive of inspiration, encouragement or guidance which are so necessary to produce useful results in research and development.
2. The answer to better and more effective Audio Surveillance is in team play, not only must there be greater emphasis on technological development but on greater and more sophisticated effort in the field. This has constantly improved over the past few years, but not as rapidly as the situation warrants chiefly due to inadequate manpower in both areas.
3. This brings up a basic policy consideration as to which is more important, -- the maintenance of limits in manpower and budgets or greater progress in obtaining useful information in the field of audio surveillance?
4. It seems idle to recount to anyone with practical experience the tremendous effort, the audacity, the risks and frustrations attending work in this field, nor the drudgery, labor and patience to cull out pertinent information from quantities of chaff. This requires a large order of manpower, skilled in the art, adventurous and resourceful in whatever devices or methods may be employed. On the technological side, the personnel required must have the highest scientific education, imagination, inventiveness, together with talent for organization and drive to improve equipment - limitations in numbers or quality necessarily means limited progress.
5. Funds and contractors alone cannot furnish the quality of results desired. There must be project engineers or their counterpart with the

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interest and the objectives of the Agency at heart to coordinate and stimulate the work. An adequate, competent in house staff to see that the technical and financial effort is well applied.

6. The sixty-four dollar question arises, what is it worth to the United States to have better Audio Surveillance leading eventually to some extraordinary break-through which is not in sight at present? If we can answer this we can map an adequate and orderly R&D program which will produce desired results eventually -- the greater the current effort, the shorter the time. A break-through of the type we hope for will not come as an isolated flash but one generated by the keen interest, dedication and hard work of competent technical people.

7. Failing this basic answer as to the value of results in a given time and appropriate action, our hopes for a break-through or a miracle are slim.

8. Still more basic than Audio Surveillance which is after all but one means of tapping the enemy's thinking and actions is the consideration as to what can be done technologically as a whole to ascertain the enemy's intent and actions from any possible angle.

9. Again we must ask ourselves the questions; what would it be worth to the United States of America to know what the enemy thinks, what he intends to do, what he has to do it with?

10. I doubt if anyone would dare to set a figure, but when we see our defense budget which reflects all the possibilities of attacks and defenses, even a partial achievement of our goal of obtaining knowledge of the enemy would be worth billions by better orientation of our defense effort.

11. I think its high time we proportion the cost of a major technical program of research and development to obtain information making it possible to secure a timely, continuous appraisal of the enemy with the value of our chances of survival as a free nation both economically and physically.

12. Would it be of help to have the Research Board discuss the subject with the idea of developing possible and practical ways and means of increasing the useful research effort?



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LUIS DEFLOREZ

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